and other private establisments in different parts of the country under the National agenda;

(b) if so, the full details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) Government commitment to addressing the problem of child labour is reflected in the announcement made in the National Agenda for Governance in 1998. The National Agenda does not make specific mention of survey for child labour working in hazardous factories and other private establishments in different parts of the country. However, Surery/identification and rehabilitaion of child labour is an ongoing process under the schems of National Child Labour Projects, which is currently under implementation in child labour endemic States.

Rural Agricultural Labourers in Gujarat

75. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present percentage of rural agricultural labourers to total rural populaiton in the State of Gujarat; and

(b) what welfare measures have been initiated or them by Central and State Governments with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) As per 1991 Census, percentage of rural agricultural labourer to total rural populaiton in the State of Gujratis 11.21.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employees Under ESI Scheme

76. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to strengthen the health cover to State and industrial employees under ESI scheme during the current year and the Ninth Plan providing for establishing super speciality hospitals;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan finalised, State-wise in general and for Maharashtra in particular;

(c) the details of the total employees covered under the scheme State-wise alongwith projection for Ninth Plan; and

(d) the details of funds provided for implementaion of the scheme during the current year and the Ninth Plan period with State-wise break up and expansion plan and plans for setting up new hospitals and dispensaries in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The ESI Scheme is applicable to power-using factories employing 10 or more persons and non-power using factories/establishments employing 20 or more persons. The Scheme is being implemented area-wise in a phased manner. Implementation of the ESI Scheme is based upon its need in the new area. Therefore expansion of the ESI Scheme is not linked to Five-Year Plans. However, the ESI Corporation in consultation with State Governments has prepared a phased programme for implementaion of the scheme in new area for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 covering about 2.64 lakh additional employees. A Statement indicating total number of employees already covered under ESI Scheme (State-wise) in annexed. *(See* below) The estimated expenditure incurred on provision of ESI medical care including on implementation in new areas during 1997-98 was Rs. 480.47 crore.

There are several ESI Hospitals already providing super specialities services to the ESI boneficiaries in the different parts of the country. In addition the State Governments have already made tie-up arrangments to provide super speciality services to the ESI beneficiaries through reputed Government and Non-Government medical institutions. Recently an action Plan to strengthen the health cover under the ESI Scheme has been formulated' and forwarded to the state Governments including the Government of Maharashtra for implementation in consultation with the ESI Corporation. The Action Plan includes inter-alia provision of modern equipement systems, establishment of regional trauma centres, establishment of super speciality services, blood banks, preventive oncollogy and Cancer treatment centres,